### Genesis

## Chapter 40

1It was some time after this that the king’s chief cupbearer and his chief baker had wronged their lord, the king of Egypt. 2PharaOh was furious with his two eunuchs (his chief cupbearer and his chief baker), 3so he had them locked up in prison… In the same place where JoSeph was kept, 4and the prison warden left them with JoSeph, who was to guard them.  
  
Well, after they’d spent some time in the prison, 5they both had a dream one night. Each man had his own dream and each dream had its own interpretation.  
  
6Then the next morning when JoSeph went in to see them, they were both quite disturbed... 7So he asked PharaOh’s eunuchs (who were there in the prison with him):  
  
 ‘Why are you so sad today?’  
  
8And they replied:  
  
 ‘We [both] had dreams, but don’t know what they mean.’  
  
So JoSeph said:  
  
 ‘Doesn’t the interpretation of [dreams come] through God? Tell [me what you saw]!’  
  
9And the chief cupbearer told JoSeph his dream. He said:  
  
 ‘In my dream [I saw] a vine 10that had three stems, which budded and put out blossoms; then [it formed] clusters of grapes that ripened.  
  
 11‘Then after that, [I found] PharaOh’s cup in my hands. So I took the grapes and squeezed them into the cup, and I gave the cup to PharaOh.’  
  
12Well at that, JoSeph said to him:  
  
 ‘This is what [the dream] means:  
  
 ‘The three stems are three days. 13So in three days, PharaOh will remember what you did and he will give you back your position as chief cupbearer!  
  
 ‘Therefore, you’ll [once again] put PharaOh’s cup in his hands, holding the same high position that you once had as his cupbearer.’  
  
14[Then he continued]:  
  
 ‘Now, remember me when things are going well for you… Be merciful to me and mention me to PharaOh, so that I can be released from this dungeon!  
  
 15‘You see, I was stolen from the land of the Hebrews. And although I’ve done nothing wrong here, I was thrown into this hole.’  
  
16Well, when the chief baker saw that he’d given [the first man] the right interpretation, he said to JoSeph:  
  
 ‘I also had a dream. I remember looking up, and I found three baskets of bakery goods on top of my head... 17In the top basket, there were all the kinds of things that PharaOh enjoys. But birds in the sky came and ate them out of the basket that was on my head.’  
  
18Then JoSeph told him:  
  
 ‘This is what it means:  
  
 ‘The three baskets are three days. 19So in three days, PharaOh will cut off your head and hang you on a tree, where the birds of the sky will eat your flesh.’  
  
20Well, three days later, it was PharaOh’s birthday when he held a banquet for all his servants. It was then that he remembered the offices that the cupbearer and the baker once held among them.  
  
21So he restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and once again he put PharaOh’s cup into his hands. 22However, he hanged the chief baker, just as JoSeph foretold... 23But thereafter, the chief cupbearer soon forgot about JoSeph.